

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 /145 W

----- 003889

R 151130Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1102

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/AN

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: LOCAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: IN WAKE OF ITS SUCCESS IN NATIONAL ELECTION RPP LOCAL LEADERS WERE CONFIDENT THEY WOULD HAVE EXCELLENT CHANCE TO UNSEAT JP STRONGMAN AND THREE TERM MAYOR OF IZMIR OSMAN KIBAR IN DECEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER SELECTION BY RPP OF UNINSPIRING CANDIDATE TO OPPOSE KIBAR AND DEVISIVE INTRA-PARTY SQUABBLE HAVE SEVERELY UNDERMINED RPP CHANCES TO PULL UPSET ON DECEMBER 9. END SUMMARY.

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1. AFTER OCTOBER ELECTION LOCAL RPP OFFICIALS WERE JUBILANT, HAVING OUT-POLLED JP IN IZMIR FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY. EVEN JP SUPPORTERS BELIEVED KIBAR WOULD LOSE IF RPP WERE TO FIND QUALIFIED CANDIDATE TO OPPOSE HIM. KIBAR'S WEAK POSITION DUE NOT ONLY TO JP LOSS IN NATIONAL ELECTION, BUT TO GROWING BELIEF HIS IMAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS BUFFOON WAS MORE THAN AN IMAGE AND THAT CONSE-

QUENTLY HE NOT ADEQUATE TO THE COMPLICATED TASK
OF MODERN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

2. RPP WAS UNABLE TO COME UP WITH STRONG CANDIDATE
HOWEVER. IN NOV 11 PRE-ELECTION RPP DELEGATES
SELECTED LONG-TIME RPP PARTY REGULAR AND CITY
COUNCIL MEMBER ISHAN ALYANAK OVER IZMIR BAR
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ISKENDER OZTURANLI BY 4 TO 1
MARGIN. ALYANAK FAIRLY WELL KNOWN LOCALLY BUT IS
GENERALLY CONSIDERED LIGHT WEIGHT WITH STYLE AND
PERSONALITY VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF KIBAR. SO-CALLED
INTELLECTUAL ELEMENT OF RPP VERY DISAPPOINTED BY
CHOICE AND SOME EVEN TALKING OF VOTING FOR KNOWN-
EVIL KIBAR RATHER THAN RISK ALYANAK.

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3. A SECOND AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT RESULT OF
PRE-ELECTION WAS SURFACING OF SPLIT IN LOCAL RPP
STRUCTURE BETWEEN LOCAL PARTY REGULARS AND
ELEMENT OF ARY LED BY PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN ALEV
COSKUN. COSKUN WAS SENT FROM ANKARA LAST SPRING
TO TAKE CHAIRMANSHIP IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICT
BETWEEN LOCAL LEADERS WISHING TO SUCCEED KAYA
BENGISU WHO HAD RESIGNED TO RUN FOR DEPUTY. COSKUN'S
SUBSEQUENT SELECTION AS A CENTRAL QUOTA DEPUTY
CANDIDATE FROM IZMIR COMPOUNDED NORMAL RESISTANCE
OF PARTY ORGANIZATION TO AN UNKNOWN OUTSIDER.
DETERMINATION OF LOCAL PARTY RZGULARS TO REASSERT
THEIR CONTROL OF PARTY AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR SLECTION OF ALYANAK AS AS MAYOR CANDIDATE.

4. AT PRE-ELECTION MEETING NOV 11 SULEYMAN GENC
AND HIS LEFT-WING SUPPORTERS THREW THEIR WEIGHT
BEHIND ALYANAK AND EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED COSKUN
AND KEMAL ONDER, ANOTHER NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTY
AND IZMIR COUNTY CHAIRMAN, WHO WERE SUPPORTING A
SLATE HEADED BY A THIRD CANDIDATE, THE PRESIDENT OF

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THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, EKREM
BULGUN. BULGUN RAN A POOR THIRD, RECEIVING EVEN
FEWER VOTES THAT OZTURANLI.

5. IN ADDITION TO BEING ISOLATED AND DEFEATED COSKUN

AND ONDER HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF IMPROPERLY PROVIDING DELEGATES WITH FILLED-IN, STAMPED BALLOTS, AND A REPORT HAS BEEN SENT TO RPP HEADQUARTERS IN ANKARA SEEKING THEIR REMOVAL FROM THEIR PARTY POSITIONS. INCIDENT IS NOT EXPECTED TO RESULT IN ANY ACTION AGAINST COSKUN AND ONDER, BUT IT HAS CERTAINLY WEAKENED RPP AT A VERY CRUCIAL TIME.

6. MAYOR KIBAR HAS PULLED HIMSELF OUT OF THE FUNK HE SANK INTO AFTER THE NATIONAL ELECTION AND HAS BEGUN TO SMILE AGAIN. HE HAS REASON TO SMILE. EVEN WITH THE POWER SHORTAGE, WATER HOURS, OCCASIONAL BREAD SHORTAGES, SEVERAL MINOR SCANDALS, AND HIS IMAGE AS A NOT VERY COMPETENT OR HONEST ADMINISTRATOR, HE NOW HAS, AS A RESULT OF RPP INEPTNESS, A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF LOOKING FORWARD TO FOUR MORE YEARS.
SMITH

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